

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 0203

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, PDEV, PORG, UNSC, CA, ET, SO
SUBJECT: HORN OF AFRICA: INCLUSION OF CANADA IN FUTURE CONSULTATIONS

1. UK MISSION CALLED JANUARY 23 TO ASK OUR VIEW AS TO THE ADVISABILITY OF NOW INFORMING CANADIANS IN GENERAL TERMS OF THE BACKGROUND, PURPOSES AND CONTENT OF OUR FIVE-POWER CONSULTATIONS ON THE HORN IN WASHINGTON JANUARY 21. AFTER TELEPHONE CHECK WITH THE DEPARTMENT AND FURTHER TALK WITH UKUN, WE TOLD THE BRITISH WE FEEL THE CANADIANS SHOULD BE BRIEFED IMMEDIATELY AND SUGGESTED THAT UKUN GO AHEAD AND DO IT. BRITISH MISSION IS THEREFORE CABLING LONDON FOR INSTRUCTIONS ALONG THESE LINES, AND WOULD EXPECT TO CHAT WITH THE CANADIANS INFORMALLY JANUARY 24.

2. BOTH WE AND BRITISH HERE FEEL THAT, SINCE THE PROBLEM OF THE HORN IS BEING CONSIDERED IN THE CONTEXT OF POSSIBLE SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION, AND OUR QUADRIPARTITE CONTACTS ARE WITH CONFIDENTIAL

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COUNCIL MEMBERS, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT WE NOW WEAVE THE CANADIANS INTO THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP. THIS DOUBLY SO IN LIGHT OF SECRETARY OWEN'S INDICATION OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SC ACTION IN HIS STATEMENT TO COMMONS LATE LAST WEEK, AND OUR OWN PUBLIC ACKNOWLEDGEMENT THAT CONSULTATIONS ON THIS SUBJECT ARE IN PROGRESS. IT ALSO MUST SEEM ANOMALOUS TO THE CANADIANS THAT THE ITALIANS HAVE BEEN

INCLUDED, WHILE THEY HAVE NOT.

3. WE BELIEVE OUR PATTERN OF CONSULTATIONS ON THE HORN WILL BE MOST EFFECTIVE IF IT IS CONGRUENT WITH SIMILAR SECURITY COUNCIL-RELATED CONSULTATIVE ARRANGEMENTS IN WHICH CANADA HAS PLAYED SUCH AN ACTIVE AND EFFECTIVE ROLE. THE DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL GLITCHES THAT HAVE OCCURED IN THE NAMIBIAN EXERCISE, SPARKING STRONG CANADIAN FEELINGS ABOUT BEING TAKEN FOR GRANTED. WE THINK THEY WILL WANT TO BE IN ON THE TAKEOFF AS WELL AS THE LANDING ON THE ISSUE OF THE HORN, AS WELL.

4. WE SUGGEST, THEREFORE, THAT THE QUADRIPARTITE BASIS FOR ON-GOING CONSIDERATION OF THE HORN CANNOT PROVIDE FOR ALL OF THESE CONSIDERATIONS. WE SHOULD INCLUDE CANADA IN OUR DISCUSSIONS OF WESTERN STRATEGY.
YOUNG

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